

Question put and agreed to and resolution withdrawn with leave.

19. Economic Development Committee.

Mr. K. T. Mathew being absent, the following resolutions and amendment to the second of them were considered withdrawn:—

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—“This Council recommends that the Economic Development Committee shall be so constituted as to have at least two-thirds of its members elected by the non-official members of the Legislative Council”.

20. Nominated seats in Village Panchayats.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—“This Council recommends that in all village Panchayats one-third of the nominated seats be reserved to the so-called depressed classes and another one-third to the so-called untouchable classes.”

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Omit ‘one-third of the’. Omit all the words beginning with ‘to the so-called.....’ and substitute ‘to all unrepresented classes’.

21. Use of Khaddar.

As Mr. A. Eachara Menon was absent, the following resolution was considered withdrawn:—

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—“This Council recommends to the Government that Khaddar may be used in the supply of uniforms and linen to the Hospitals.”

22. Loans to the Sitaram Mills.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—I beg to move that “in view of the fact that the repayment of the loan of Rs. 3½ lakhs granted to the Sitaram Spinning and Weaving Mills has been overdue, and that large sums of money will be required in the immediate future for important irrigation projects and Railway and industrial development, this Council recommends to the Government that immediate steps be taken to recover the full amount including interest or to take over the control of the Mills by Government.”

Mr. President, Sir, my object in moving this resolution is firstly to try and safeguard the money advanced out of public funds and also at the same time, if possible, to protect the interest of the share-holders and to try and prevent the possibility of a large number of Mill hands being thrown out of employment.

From the series of interpellations on the subject I have tabled, as well as the Hypothetical Balance Sheet I put in this House at the last Budget meeting, it must be more than evident that this institution is labouring under serious financial difficulties. I regret that this Hypothetical Balance Sheet was omitted in the publication of the last Proceedings, and I shall feel much obliged if it could be included in this Session’s Proceedings.